United Nations E/2006/SR.3

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

6 March 2006

Original: English

Organizational session for 2006

Provisional summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 10 February 2006, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

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06-23912 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2005/45, E/2006/1,* E/2006/2,* E/2006/11, E/2006/46 and E/2006/L.1)

1. **The President** invited the Council to resume its consideration of the draft proposals contained in document E/2006/L.1.

Draft decision II: Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

2. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Council) said that, following informal consultations, draft decision II had been amended to read: "The Economic and Social Council, having considered document E/2006/1, approves the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2006"; a footnote would be added directly following the document symbol, and the footnote itself would state the full title of the document.

3. *Draft decision II, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Draft decision III: Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2007

4. *Draft decision III was adopted.*

Draft decision IV: Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

5. **The President** read out draft decision IV and said that he himself would conduct the high-level segment and the dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions; Mr. Hannesson, Vice-President, would conduct the coordination segment; Mr. Merorès, Vice-President, would conduct the operational activities segment; Mr. Kariyawasam, Vice-President, would conduct the humanitarian affairs segment; and Mr. Šerkšnys, Vice-President, would conduct the general segment.

6. **Mr. Stofel** (United States of America) said that the text of draft decision IV which the President had just read out departed from that contained in document E/2006/L.1 of 3 February 2006; he asked which version was before the Council for adoption.

7. **The President** said that he had simply indicated the names of the members of the Bureau who would lead the discussions. He confirmed that draft decision IV remained unchanged from the text in document E/2006/L.1.

8. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) pointed out that the President had acted in accordance with rule 18, paragraph 2, of the Council's rules of procedure, which stated: "The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each of the Vice-Presidents".

9. *Draft decision IV was adopted.*

Draft decision V: Operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

10. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the draft decision to a later date, as informal consultations were still in progress.

11. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision VI: Theme for the regional cooperation item of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

12. **The President**, recalling that the delegation of the United States of America had proposed an amendment to draft decision VI at the Council's previous meeting, said that agreement had been reached, following informal consultations, to amend the theme for the regional cooperation item to read: "The regional dimension of creating an environment conducive to generating full and productive employment, and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development".

13. *Draft decision VI, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Draft decision IX

14. **The President** recalled that the Council, at its previous meeting, had deferred consideration of the proposal for the inclusion in the agenda of the 2006 organizational session of an additional item entitled "Adaptation of the organization of work, the agenda and the current methods of work of the Economic and Social Council" made by the delegation of the United States of America in a letter to him dated 13 January

2006 (E/2006/46). Informal consultations on the matter had resulted in a new draft decision IX, entitled "Adapting the work of the Economic and Social Council", which would read as follows:

> "The Economic and Social Council decides that, as soon as possible after the adoption by the General Assembly of its draft resolution in pursuance of paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the President of the Council should convene consultations of the Council, with services on an as-available basis, to adapt its organization of work, agenda and current methods of work in pursuance of paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the related General Assembly resolution in this regard, with a view to implementation beginning in 2007".

15. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Council) said that draft decision IX had no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft decision IX was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Oosthuizen** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that his Group wished to emphasize that the decision of the Council must be without prejudice to further discussion of the matter once the General Assembly resolution in question had been issued.

Request to reactivate the consultations on the inclusion of the item entitled "Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No. 29)" in the agenda of the substantive session of the Council in 2006

18. **The President** invited the Council to consider the request made by the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, in a letter dated 30 June 2005 addressed to the Secretary-General (E/2006/11), for the Council to reactivate its consideration of observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No. 29), originally placed before it in 2001. In the light of its consultations on the matter, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the following oral decision:

> "The Council agrees that the letter of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (E/2006/11) should be placed under item 14 (b) of the provisional agenda of the 2006 substantive session, entitled 'Social Development', for appropriate consideration by the Council."

19. *It was so decided.*

Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

20. **The President** recalled that the Council, in its resolution 2005/45, had decided to consider the proposal to include a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development at a future substantive session. In the light of its consultations on the matter, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the following oral decision:

> "The Council decides to consider, at its regular organizational session in February 2007, the proposal to include a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development at a future substantive session of the Council".

21. *It was so decided.*

International cooperation in tax matters

22. **The President** recalled that the Council, in its decision 2005/311, had decided to defer consideration of the sub-item entitled "International cooperation in tax matters" to the organizational session for 2006. As the first session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters had been held in December 2005, and its report (E/2005/45) had only just been issued, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the following oral decision:

> "The Council decides to defer consideration of the report of the first session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2005/45) to its 2006 substantive session in Geneva under item 13 (h) of the general segment."

23. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.